
From The Front

SUPPORT

From A1

who spent time stationed in Japan and several locations in Southeast Asia.

"But this is your protection, your job, your future, your security, your country and your local economy."

Greenwood's performance, which concluded Armed Forces Appreciation Day, brought many in the crowd to tears and inspired others to join hands and sing along.

Pausing to honor all the men and women "who have laid down their lives" for the United States, whether in battle or "in planes and buildings," Greenwood said Americans must not forget to salute their heroes.

"We love the military, and we love what you're doing to defend our nation," Greenwood said. "We should

all stand arm in arm, believing in each other and supporting each other."

Saturday's festivities began with a parade from the intersection of State Road 189 and Camp Pinchot to the fairgrounds, where dozens of vendors and military-related organizations set up exhibits.

Children, many with American flags painted on their cheeks or red, white and blue streaked into their hair, tossed toy planes into the air.

Several pieces of military equipment — including a scud missile, an aircraft warning radar unit and a pair of Pave Low helicopters — were also on display for tours and demonstrations.

Fred Rochefort, who retired from the U.S. Army Nursing Corps in 1982, drove from Panama City to see Greenwood's concert and show his support for America and its soldiers.

"I walked up to one of the

Army recruiters here and said, 'Will you sign me up again?' " Rochefort said. "I would definitely go back in, in a heartbeat."

Renata Setter, who brought her two young daughters to the concert, said though they cannot fully understand, she has tried to teach her children the significance of the flag and the events of Sept. 11.

A few days after the attacks, Setter said she was driving to Fort Walton Beach from their home in Navarre when her oldest daughter, 3-year-old Savannah, pointed out that there were many more flags flying from cars and homes.

On Saturday, dressed in a blue and white polka-dot skirt and a red sweater, Savannah explained why.

"Because a lot of people died," she said before running off to play with a new friend, her blond ponytail bouncing atop her head. "And we want

to show them that we love them."

Col. C.D. Moore, who works in weapons development with Eglin Air Force Base's 46th Test Wing, said the security and peace of mind of children like Savannah is what is at stake in America's war on terrorism.

"The show of support has been great because people realize that this isn't just about the military," Moore said.

"We are all in this together and committed to the cause because we recognize that there are certain things worth fighting for and worth defending," he said, looking around at the hundreds of local families who attended the event together.

"And this is it."

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